

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview on December 6, 2004.

Applicants again respectfully point out to the Examiner that "part of speech" is not equivalent to "syntactic function". For example, the word "dog" is a noun as a part of speech. However, this noun will have different syntactic functions in a clause such as whether it is a subject or an object ("the dog chases the cat" i.e., subject) verses "the cat chases the dog" i.e., object)). Thus, a system that uses only the part of speech such as in *Julliard* would match expressions where the noun "dog" is used both as an object and as a subject which is not what one is looking for according to the query.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully points out to the Examiner that neither *Goldberg* nor *Julliard* analyze a text database for both syntactic function and lexical meaning. *Julliard* merely uses a tagged database, column 5, lines 23-24. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that lexical meaning and grammatical meaning are different from one another. Furthermore, neither *Goldberg* nor *Julliard* analyze a natural language text database for both syntactic functions and lexical meaning of work token nor do they define a set of conditions for an answer clause such that at least one of the constituents of the same lexical function and an equivalent lexical meaning as claimed in the claims.

As indicated above, new claims 16-20 have been added.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 17, 2004

By:



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